

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Lawrence J. SIFEL et al. ) Prior Application :  
Serial No.: Divisional Application of ) Group Art Unit: 1734  
U.S.S.N. 09/008,780 )  
Filed: November 27, 2000 ) Examiner: L. Gray  
For: ORGANIC SHELL BLANK AND )  
METHOD FOR MAKING SAME )

#4/A

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this application  
as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1-32.

Please add claims 33-37 as follows:

--33. An organic shell inlay blank comprising:  
a first sheet of nacreous shell matter;  
a second sheet of nacreous shell matter; said first sheet being stacked on  
said second sheet, said first sheet being sufficiently thin that at least a portion of said  
second sheet is visible through said first sheet when stacked; and

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